



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

June 2006

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement
P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240. (804) 698-4055 Fax (804) 698-4224.
DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Litter Picks. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Let us know by calling Sheila Barnett at (804) 698-4055 or sending an email to: smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov.

Are You News Worthy?

"Litter Picks" is over 1-year old now, and we've been pleased to provide a window into what is happening both inside and outside Virginia in litter-related programs. We've seen what the Assign-A-Highway Project has accomplished, the emergence of the Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty, and the many Earth Day events hosted by your local programs.

We want to make "Litter Picks" a mirror on Virginia's litter prevention activities, to highlight Virginia-based programs and projects and to broadcast Virginia's initiatives. To do this we need you to submit stories, pictures, newspaper articles, notices of program awards and events, and any other news item that will make "Litter Picks" a who's who and what's what in Virginia.

Beginning in July, "Litter Picks" is your news outlet. What program of yours is making Virginia and your locality more litter-free? How are your citizens participating in reducing and preventing litter? How are your local elected officials making litter prevention and awareness a priority?

Send us your news, your stories, and your information NOW! We'll put it "out there" for all to see. Let's show what Virginia is accomplishing! Call Sheila Barnett at (804) 698-4055 or send her an email at: smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov

More Volunteers Needed for your Litter Program?

Keep Tennessee Beautiful has an excellent training web site for litter coordinators. There is a PowerPoint presentation for litter coordinators about where to go to get volunteers for litter programs and how to ask people to volunteer. The title of this short presentation is called; "Double Your Volunteers."

A second presentation is intended for litter coordinators who are making presentations to the public and it is called; "Littering Facts." Although it is about littering facts for Tennessee, it can be modified to give facts about Virginia.

"Telling Your TGAC Media Story" gives good advice for how to talk to the media and how to get media attention for litter projects going on throughout the community.

To view these presentations, go to: <http://www.ktnb.org/>

If you are interested in modifying or using Tennessee's presentations for your locality, please contact Keep Tennessee Beautiful at (888) 862-5326 or EHeller@Memphis.edu.

Did You Know?

- ✓ The application to apply for FY 2007 litter and recycling grants **MUST** be postmarked by **June 30, 2006** in order to qualify for grant funds. **The application must be signed by the County Administrator, City Manager, or the Town Manager.** Go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/forms.html> to download a copy of the application. The Performance and Accounting section **MUST** be postmarked by **August 31, 2006**.
- ✓ Keep Nelson Beautiful and VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway program from the Amherst Residency joined forces and held a "March on Nelson" litter pick up campaign in March and April. Approximately 75 citizens cleaned up approximately 20 miles of road and some illegal dump sites. Volunteers collected 355 bags of trash. Contact Paulette Albright at (540) 377-5754 or britemtn@cfw.com
- ✓ Chesterfield County held its first Annual Environmental Fair on May 12 – 13. Over 500 people attended this event. Contact Pam Cooper at (804) 751-2227 or cooperp@chesterfield.gov
- ✓ Prince George County held their Spring Clean up on Saturday, May 20, 2006. Adopt-a-Highway volunteers cleaned up along roadways and Prince George County held a household hazardous waste and tire collection event. Electronics were also accepted during the day. They collected approximately 20 tons of tires and 8,669 pounds of electronics and 10,222 pounds of household hazardous waste. For more information contact David Sutton at (804) 733-2612 or dsutton@princegeorgeva.org

Think Globally, Act Locally

That's the phrase that volunteers with **Chesapeake's** Environmental Improvement Council (CEIC) have put into action. Last year, 7,813 volunteers removed 153,568 pounds of trash from Chesapeake's waterways, streets, parks, and other public areas.

CEIC operates through the Special Programs office which is part of Chesapeake's Parks and Recreation. CEIC projects empower citizens to promote litter prevention, recycling, beautification and general environmental awareness.

To learn more about CEIC or its projects go to:

<http://www.chesapeake.va.us/SERVICES/depart/park-rec/ceic.shtml>

Litter Picks Continued

Load Covering Campaigns

According to the "Help Keep **Hanover** Clean" web page, over half of the litter along Hanover's roads is unintentional. It blows or bounces out of the back of personal vehicles on the way to waste convenience centers or from trucks going to and from construction sites.

<http://www.co.hanover.va.us/pio/news/050523a.htm>

Section § 33.1-346 of the Code of Virginia addresses litter that has been ejected from a motor vehicle. Littering, whether intentional or unintentional is a misdemeanor in Virginia, punishable by up to 12 months in jail, a fine between \$250 - \$2,500 or both.

Not only is litter unsightly, but it can be dangerous to animals and to humans. Sometimes, objects land in the road and motorists must swerve to avoid hitting whatever large object has landed in the road. Sometimes that object can hit the windshield of another motorist and cause an accident. Litter that escapes from the back of vehicles can often be prevented if people take time to cover their loads. Some counties in Virginia have nets available to citizens to cover their loads. Hanover County and the town of **Ashland** have handed out cargo nets to vehicles entering county transfer stations with unsecured loads. To learn more about the Hanover County and Ashland programs to hand out cargo nets, visit the web site at: <http://www.co.hanover.va.us/works/solidwst.htm>

Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board sponsors free workshops for **Stafford** and **Fredericksburg** citizens who want to combat litter. The workshops teach residents how to prevent littering by properly securing their vehicle loads so that items will not fall out of their vehicles. The workshops cover Stafford's litter laws. After completion, participants receive a free tarp kit to cover their vehicles. Visit the web site at: http://stafford.va.us/Departments/Recycling_Litter_Prevention_Landfill/Sheriff's_Office_Recycling/Index_textonly.shtml

South Carolina, Georgia and Washington State have campaigns to bring about public awareness of the hazards of unsecured loads. To view their unsecured loads brochures and fliers go to:

South Carolina:

<http://www.palmettopride.org/assets/Unsecured%20Loads.pdf>

Georgia:

<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/pickupbrochure.pdf>

Washington State:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0507028.pdf>

Giving it Away for Free– and Keeping it out of the Landfills

There are 72 groups in Virginia that are members of the Freecycle Network and the list goes alphabetically from Abingdon to Yorktown. The Freecycle network's purpose is to keep items that people might want out of landfills. Items must be given free of charge.

People use the Freecycle network to give away everything from computers and paint to flower bulbs for the garden. To learn more about the Freecycle Network, go to:

<http://www.freecycle.org/>

Graffiti Hurts – Time to Apply for Awards

Does your locality have a program that handles graffiti? If so, you may want to apply for the Keep America Beautiful, Inc. Graffiti Hurts® National Award as the postmark deadline is September 15, 2006.

Graffiti removal and abatement programs are important because an area with graffiti is more likely to attract litter.

Richmond City's Department of Public Works has a graffiti removal program. Their web site is:

www.ci.richmond.va.us/departments/publicworks/graffiti.aspx

Both **Fairfax County** and **Prince William County** have graffiti programs that have been recognized and written about by Keep America Beautiful. To read about these programs and other successful programs go to:

www.graffitihurts.org/community_resources/prevention.cfm

Fairfax County's police Department has their own web site pertaining to graffiti:

<http://www.fairfaxva.gov/Police/GraffitiResponsePRGM.asp>

Victims of graffiti in Prince William County need to call their local police department. The Prince William County Clean Community Council will provide clean up kits to the person who's property was damaged by graffiti. The website with this contact information is: <http://www.co.prince-william.va.us/default.aspx?topic=040033000070003582>

To apply for the Graffiti Hurts National Award, go to: <http://graffitihurts.org/awards/about.cfm>

Coming Soon . . . Assign-a-Highway Presentation to a PDC Near You!

Bobby Justus continues to travel around the state making presentations about the success that Assign-a-Highway is having in the localities that have implemented the program. In May, he made presentations in **Buckingham, West Piedmont, Marion** and **Dublin**. The schedule for June is as follows:

June	
6	Lynchburg
14	Culpeper
15	Richmond
16	Northern Neck
17	Mid-Peninsula

For questions about the Assign-a-Highway program, contact Bobby Justus at (276) 628-1600 or

bjustus_assignahighway@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events:

June 10 Many localities in the Tidewater region are having pick ups for **Clean the Bay Day**. Register to clean a stretch of waterway by visiting the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Web Site at:

<http://www.cbf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=clean>

June 10 The James River Park System is sponsoring a clean up of the James River from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Ten sites are listed in various counties. For information and registration go to: www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com

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